

## **Department for Environmental Protection Social Media Comment Policy**

The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (DEP) manages several social media outlets, including WordPress, Facebook, YouTube, Photobucket and Twitter. Each outlet serves a different audience and shares pertinent information specific to these audiences.

The goal for the DEP social media pages is to be a helpful medium that is conducive to real-time discussions and useful feedback. Some of the DEP social media pages allow public interaction in the form of comments. The staff at Kentucky's Department for Environmental Protection encourages members of the public to share opinions as they relate to the environmental issues being discussed. However, users must remember that the views expressed in comments reflect those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department for Environmental Protection or state government as a whole.

DEP recognizes the importance of comments in creating discussions, but we also expect comments to be appropriate and courteous so as to respect the social media community as a whole. As a precautionary step, DEP reserves the right to review, edit and/or delete any comments it deems are inappropriate. Comments including, but not limited to the following, may be deleted or edited by the moderators:

- Obscene, indecent or profane language
- Threats, personal attacks or defamatory statements
- Hate speech directed at race, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ethnicity, age, religion or disability
- Fraudulent, deceptive or misleading information
- Off-topic and redundant comments
- Promotion or endorsement of services and products (Note that noncommercial links that are relevant to the topic or another comment are acceptable.)

Copyrighted and other proprietary material should not be posted or submitted in any form unless permission to do so is clearly indicated. Once comments are posted, the author grants DEP irrevocable permission to copy, distribute and display the author's work publicly and free-of-charge. If you do not wish to have the information you have made available via this site to be used, published, copied and/or reprinted, please do not post on these pages.

Social media pages managed by the Department for Environmental Protection are provided for general information purposes only. If you have a regulatory question for staff members or an environmental emergency to report, please refrain from using social media pages. These questions or concerns should be sent via email to staff at [envhelp@ky.gov](mailto:envhelp@ky.gov).

Inquiries from journalists and reporters should be sent through the appropriate public information channels rather than by submitting questions via social media sites. It is DEP's policy not to post answers to reporters' questions on these sites. Instead, DEP staff can be contacted at 502-564-

0323 or [envhelp@ky.gov](mailto:envhelp@ky.gov).

References and links to other websites or references to other organizations, products, services or publications do not constitute endorsement or approval by DEP. The Department for Environmental Protection is not responsible and assumes no liability for the content of any linked websites.

Lastly, DEP staff recognizes that the Internet is a medium not bound by regular business hours, and your comments are welcome at any time. However, given the need to manage state resources, reviewing and posting of comments will generally occur during regular business hours Monday through Friday. Comments submitted at other times will be reviewed and posted as soon as possible the next business day.

Thank you for taking the time to read this comment policy. We encourage your participation in our discussion and look forward to an active exchange of ideas.